

in regions between 4,000 and 7,000 feet in elevation. The city of Guatemala, the largest market in the country, draws its main supply from the village of Santa Maria de Jesus, which lies at an elevation of approximately 6,700 feet on the slopes of the Volcan de Agua, near Antigua. The fruit is common in the markets of towns upon the coast as well as in those of the highlands. but production seems to be much greater in the latter region. While it is evident that the plant is fairly adaptable in its climatic requirements, it appears at the same time that best results are obtained in a somewhat cool atmosphere.

"Taking, for example, Santa Maria de Jesus as representative of the zone in which the chayote flourishes most luxuriantly, we may observe that the soil is a loose volcanic loam; that the annual rainfall is between 25 and 40 inches (though this is not significant, since the vines are irrigated artificially), and that the temperatures are never high (rarely exceeding 80° F. and not often falling to the freezing point). Judging from the character of the vegetation in Santa Maria, it is permissible to assume that minimum temperatures of 28° to 30° F. may sometimes be experienced.

"Amatitlan, another region in which chayotes are successfully grown, has a much warmer climate than Santa Maria, with minimum temperatures probably never below 40° F., and maxima as high as 90° F. The soil of this region is slightly more compact than that of Santa Maria, yet of the same volcanic origin. It is a loose black loam, of excellent fertility and good mechanical texture.

"The Coban region, which also produces good chayotes, is quite different in character, the soil being a clay loam, underlaid with clay, and the rainfall being much heavier than in central and southern Guatemala,—commonly it is about 80 inches, distributed throughout ten months of the year while in central Guatemala there is a dry season of at least six months' duration.

"Judging from the behavior of the chayote in Guatemala, one is perhaps justified in asserting that a relatively cool climate (by tropical standards) suits it best, and that it requires an abundance of water, for in regions such as Santa Maria, where rainfall is insufficient, the plants are irrigated sometimes as frequently as once a day.